

QUID NOVI

Journal des étudiant-e-s
en droit de l'université McGill

McGill Law's
Weekly Student Newspaper

Volume 34, n°4
23 octobre 2012 | October 23rd 2012

QUID NOVI

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Envoyez vos commentaires ou articles avant
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JÉRÉMY
BOULANGER-
BONNELLY

LA CRISE IDENTITAIRE DE L'AÉD

Notre association étudiante accomplit un travail essentiel et s'acquitte de ses tâches de façon presque exemplaire lorsqu'il s'agit de nous changer les idées. Personne, je crois, ne voudrait nier ce fait.

Cependant, la bête politique qu'est l'AÉD est nettement plus décevante et s'est même avérée au cours des derniers mois être un échec total. Les épisodes de la grève de MUNACA et du conflit étudiant ont mené à des assemblées générales houleuses confrontant des étudiants activistes à un exécutif voulant rester neutre.

The result of last year's events is even clearer since the beginning of this academic year. Our executive concedes no political role to the LSA, as the referendum questions put to the student body in September explicitly demonstrate. The proposition to strip the General Assembly of all its power was a clear attempt to make sure that no other political position would be taken by the LSA. Luckily, the students decided to reject this proposal.

Mais ces cafouillages ne sont en fait que des symptômes d'un problème beaucoup plus grand. Il me semble que l'AÉD vient de frapper le mur de sa quête identitaire.

Le référendum de début d'année aura au moins permis de lancer le débat sur le rôle de l'AÉD au sein de la faculté. Certains ont défendu avec vigueur une vision purement ludique de l'association, qui n'aurait qu'à se charger du pain et des jeux et ne devrait pas s'immiscer dans les débats politiques, qui seraient plutôt l'apanage de nos clubs. D'autres, au contraire, ont défendu le rôle politique de l'AÉD, soutenant que celui-ci pouvait accompagner harmonieusement le rôle ludique sur lequel tout le monde s'accorde, plus ou moins.

Different visions have emerged on the role of the LSA, but ironically the most precise conclusion that we can draw from this experience is that the goals and values of the LSA are still uncertain.

This uncertainty was also clear at the last AGM, held on October 17th, when a proposal to amend the budget to reconsider the allotment of funds to the journals was put forward by a member. The executive first decided to refuse any amendment, before accepting, a few minutes later, to... submit their own amendment. During this heated debate, our constitution was of no help, since it doesn't describe the procedure to be followed during AGMs, and doesn't even provide a reference to a body of suppletive rules.

Or, comment peut-on agir, en tant qu'association étudiante, si notre constitution, notre document fondamental, reste muette sur autant de sujets d'importance ? Vous remarquerez que les buts de l'association y sont décrits en termes si vagues qu'ils ne veulent finalement plus rien dire.

Il est donc impératif que notre association révise sa constitution, surtout dans le but d'en préciser les objectifs. Un comité pour la gouvernance a été créé dans ce but, ce qui est un effort louable et qui, espérons-le, saura donner des résultats concrets, qui ne finiront pas sur une tablette.

Dans ce débat, l'histoire et la position actuelle des associations étudiantes au Québec pourrait nous éclairer; après tout, nous évoluons en collaboration avec elles et faisons face aux mêmes débats. Trois points en particulier devraient à mon avis être réitérés dans une éventuelle réforme de notre constitution.

Premièrement, il est essentiel que notre assemblée générale soit l'instance déci-

sionnelle suprême de l'association, exception faite peut-être des référendums. Non seulement est-ce le lieu le plus représentatif de notre association, mais c'est également un sain contrepoids au pouvoir de l'exécutif. Dans notre démocratie étudiante, la séparation des pouvoirs s'applique aussi, bien qu'à moindre échelle.

Secondly, the association has to have an explicit role to represent the political interests of its members. Not only is this consistent with the current situation in Quebec, where accredited associations are given this role by virtue of the law, but it's also the primary way by which law students can play a role in society and contribute to the societal debates.

Thirdly, a suppletive body of rules has to be specified in our constitution, be it *le Code Morin*, *le Code Véronneau* or the *Robert's Rules of Order*. This would clarify the procedure to be followed during assemblies, and would prevent us from debating uselessly on technicalities such as the way to put forward an amendment and debate it.

Tout repose, en fait, sur la vision que nous nous donnons de notre rôle dans la société. Sommes-nous un organe démocratique vital, dont la participation à la société civile est essentielle et se réalise à la fois par les clubs et une voix forte de l'assemblée ? Ou sommes-nous plutôt un congrégat de clubs ayant certes un impact social, mais aucune voix politique cohérente ? Il nous incombe de faire ce choix qui, bien que déplaisant pour certains, sera tout de même plus fructueux que le *statu quo*.

**GABRIEL
SERENA**

EN RÉPONSE AU TEXTE DE LEE MCMILLAN

Je me questionne encore à savoir s'il n'aurait pas été plus judicieux d'écrire ce texte en anglais, afin d'éviter l'accroissement du fossé idéologique par la barrière linguistique. En fait, je constate que j'aimerais peut-être uniquement avoir la certitude que mon interlocuteur saisira bien mon propos...

Il m'est d'emblée apparu étrange de constater que le titre de ce texte n'avait rien à voir avec son contenu, l'essence du travail étant de détruire une certaine vision de la pensée souverainiste et non de critiquer les politiques du Parti Québécois. Force est de constater que l'idéologie corrompt le jugement et qu'il devient alors impossible de départager objectivement les bons et les mauvais coups d'un gouvernement. Je peux donc, sur ce point, concéder la distance qui sépare le propos exprimé et son titre.

Cette simple constatation expose toutefois en elle-même l'absurdité inhérente du débat : nous nous campons de toutes parts dans une perception stéréotypée et désinformée des enjeux politiques qu'implique la souveraineté. Nous ne faisons pas la différence entre le « Mouvement souverainiste » et l'élection d'un gouvernement minoritaire aux mains liées, ayant pourtant relégué la question nationale au second plan de son programme électoral. Nous tombons dans les perversions d'un endoctrinement conscient, d'une idéologie qui cache en soi une faiblesse : la peur de l'autre. Mais qui a vraiment peur de qui ici?

Et surtout, comment contrôle-t-on la peur? Souvent par l'usage de la rationalité. Voilà peut-être pourquoi l'auteur du texte semble ressentir un besoin machinal d'appuyer son propos dans des préceptes économiques qui donnent, je dois l'admettre, un semblant d'objectivité à son argumentaire, des bases rationnelles à sa peur.

Évidemment, lorsqu'on ne connaît pas l'enjeu, il peut sembler légitime d'affirmer sur

une base rationnelle que le discours souverainiste s'enracine « principalement dans des aspects culturels et que tout ce que ce mouvement peut espérer gagner sur ce plan, il pourra certainement s'attendre à le perdre sur le plan économique ». Monsieur McMillan, qu'arriverait-il si ce mouvement trouvait aujourd'hui une légitimité dans une logique économique comme la vôtre, qui démystifierait vos préconceptions d'un discours souverainiste affilié strictement à une idéologie de gauche, populiste, désillusionnée et irrationnelle? Rien ne vous permettrait alors d'inférer que la souveraineté du Québec implique une volonté d'introspection économique, un protectionnisme ou un refus d'accueillir des capitaux étrangers. Rien ne vous permet non plus d'inférer que le peuple québécois a besoin de se fermer aux autres pour se définir.

Une logique économique souverainiste* existe bel et bien en ce moment et met en lumière le dysfonctionnement systématique des politiques fiscales fédérales. Ce mouvement questionne la rentabilité pour le Québec de transférer «grosso modo» 50 milliards de dollars par année au gouvernement fédéral, lorsque celui-ci possède le pouvoir de réinvestir et financer à coups de dizaines de milliards de dollars ses projets stratégiques ailleurs au pays, comme les sables bitumineux d'Alberta ou l'industrie automobile en Ontario. Ces décisions n'ont effectivement guère de retombées directes dans l'économie québécoises et ne reflètent décidément pas les valeurs des Québécois, à en constater le rejet massif des politiques du Parti Conservateur aux dernières élections fédérales.

Face à ce constat, certains se réfugient dans un argumentaire essoufflé justifiant que le système possède des transferts fédéraux afin d'équilibrer les inégalités. Pourquoi les Québécois devraient-ils alors s'insurger? Parce qu'une analyse comptable poussée des dépenses grandissantes de la bureaucratie fédérale (32% lors des

quatre premières années Harper) permet de constater que le Québec perd maintenant environ 2 à 3 milliards de dollars par année, argent que pourrait possiblement couvrir la souveraineté par la rationalisation des doublons de ministères fédéraux et la disposition du double rapport d'impôt.

Cette logique économique existe. Elle est parfaitement défendable et évidemment, inconnue ou refusée des fédéralistes. Je peux admettre qu'il puisse être choquant d'apprendre qu'objectivement, rationnellement ou économiquement, le Québec aurait peut-être les assises financières pour faire l'indépendance. Mais il serait à mon tour futile de m'engager plus profondément sur ce discours économique. D'une part, parce qu'il est possible de manipuler les chiffres, leur faire dire ce que nous voulons bien entendre. D'une autre parce que nous oublions trop souvent que l'économie est d'abord et avant tout une science sociale inexacte frappée d'une limite qu'est l'incertitude et l'émotivité du facteur humain. En ce sens, les probabilités, les colonnes de chiffres, les déficits et les profits ne pourront jamais solutionner le caractère émotif et la problématique sociale qu'engendre la question nationale.

Face à un constat aussi complexe, je n'aurai pas la prétention d'apporter une solution. Je ne peux que me désoler de lire, encore une fois, un texte teinté d'une rhétorique décousue qui dévoile un discours de sourd et mal informé. Je ne suis pas contre la liberté d'expression : ceux qui veulent faire la promotion d'un fédéralisme américano-capitaliste ou louer l'hégémonie économique de la langue anglaise peuvent le faire. Mais il est selon moi essentiel d'adopter une optique qui permet le dialogue et le débat. Surtout sur la question de la souveraineté. Sinon, cela n'a pour effet que de polariser indéfiniment la question.

*(Voir le livre «Un gouvernement de trop» de Stéphane Gobeil).

ALEXANDRE
MICHAUD

SOVEREIGNTY IS GOOD FOR QUEBEC, GOOD FOR EVERYONE

This article is a response to Lee McMillan's federalist paper. With all due respect to Lee, whom I appreciate and estimate, I believe his text was but a collection of misconceptions about Quebec's sovereignty, which badly needed to be addressed – and crushed for good.

Certainly, Quid Novi readers will have noticed that my title is not a perfect counterpart to Lee's. Indeed, his article was fashioned as an attack against PQ, but it really dealt with sovereignty alone. The recent switch in power following September 4th did not "reignite" an otherwise dead debate. Firstly because Quebec had never stopped to be divided on the question, and secondly because the independence option has clearly been put on hold by the actual government. With her minority in the chamber, the new Prime Minister was not given a mandate to launch a referendum, and stated anyways she had no such intention.

I am quite puzzled by Mr McMillan's views of Quebec's struggles for its autodetermination. Sure, it might shift away time and energy that could be used elsewhere. Sure, we could have other debates instead, relatively to some economic or international policies. But if the debate is there – sovereignty has actively been pushed since the 1960's, let alone nationalism, which dates back to New-France –, and is given such importance by Quebecers, how could one just wipe it away, saying it is but a petty matter, underserving of our attention and efforts?

I'd really like the Quid Novi readers to

grasp the advantageous effects of sovereignty over federalism. What if Europe's struggles to keep its monetary union, as pointed out by Lee, was in fact the best example of the issues arising when different nations give out part of their sovereignty to a confederation? What if the euro zone is about to collapse because it was, from the very beginning, as terribly bad idea? Countries such as France and Germany should share a single currency with less developed Eastern-European countries? With Greece? Seriously?

I actually happen to believe that one of the reasons why Europe became so powerful in History is, precisely, it's disunion. Small to average-sized countries were competing against one another, and that was very stimulating for innovations. Each nation had its own model: compare France's centralism – there's Paris, and the rest –, to Germany's multi-polar landscape, in which many cities endeavoured to be the first in importance. If a model failed, not all Western civilisation failed, but only one country. If a model worked better than the others, it would spread. The opposite happened in China. Did you know that China was well set to discover America way before Europe did? Indeed, China was more developed, and it started its great explorations nearly a century before European countries did; the explorer Zheng He had a fleet of 70 ships, that were ten times as big as Christoph Colombus'. He explored South-East Asia, India, Egypt, the coasts of Africa, and some dare even say Australia, Antarctica and the Caribbeans. Yet, being an enormous, united empire, it so happened that

China was alone with itself, unchallenged. The emperor feared that these new cultures and religions that were being discovered would prove dangerous to the purity of the faith of his people, and just destroyed the ships. The entire civilization suffered from this.

I also resent Mr. McMillan's views on the seemingly ineluctable merger of all countries into a planet-State, this "global-village" or New World Order agenda that is being pushed around in the media. I believe this is one of the most dangerous ideas of our time, and one of the biggest challenges of the XXIst century will be for countries to resist this pressure and find alternative ways to come closer together without losing their sovereignty. Think about it for a second; who really has interest in a world without borders? Poets like it as a dream of fraternity in mankind, but the ones really benefitting from it will be but the big corporations, for which borders are an annoyance, a mere burden to deal with. A single-State world could not be a federation in my opinion, but solely an empire. The reconciliation of so many diverging interests seems impossible to me without constant military interventions of a world police. And then what shall happen, if the Hitler, Staline, Franco or Mussolini of the century to come takes over power? Who will fight him and his policies?

On the opposite, I strongly believe in the autodetermination of peoples, and in the concept of nation-State. That is, I think that any people conscious of forming a distinct nation should have its own State. This is, in my view, the

only way every people can deal with its specific problems and achieve its unique goals. It's the sole solution to preserving cultural diversity and long-term social peace. This is true for Scotland, this is true for Tibet, this is true for Transnistria, Catalonia, the Basque Country, and guess what? It is true for Quebec, too! Those are not "old demons", they are rather unresolved issues! Just look at all the problems faced by Africa, simply because it was divided for the benefits of colonialist foreign nations, and not in the interest of the local populations, who were either split or forced to live in the same country as rival nations. Whenever an ethnic group takes on power, the others inevitably suffer from it. If only Africa had been divided into smaller states, and the borders traced to follow the ethnic occupation of territory, there wouldn't be so much tension.

The right to auto-determination is not prescriptive: there is no delay after which a people can no longer demand freedom. Quebec was conquered, and thus it is only legitimate that it wishes to access to independence, to govern itself without the interference of another nation, that cannot fully understand and address its specificities. Seriously, how many Quebecers feel they are being well represented by Harper? Just like most Anglo-Canadians are very proud of their Canadian distinctive culture and would never want to be integrated into the United States (despite a common language), to what extent, then, should Quebec be jealous of its independence, and zealous in trying to obtain it formally!

Yes, there are undeniably strong cultural, political, moral and philosophical grounds for independence, but the economic counter-part to sovereignty is also a great argument in favor of a new Quebec State. It might feel like

some Quebecers tend to get very emotional when the question is brought before them, but the sovereignty project does not stop to mere historical and cultural issues: it also makes a lot of sense, economically, to become a country! Sure, some investors might be a little chilly in doing business with us during the transition period, but this is true of any new nation. We need not fear this. No nation has ever regretted to access sovereignty. Ever. It just doesn't happen.

Lee McMillan seems under the false impression that Quebec nationalism is anti-English, while it is in fact simply pro-French. Of course, we want to be able to be served in French in retail shops, but that does not mean that Quebec will be disarmed in exterior business. Can anyone seriously believe that Quebec businessmen will stop learning English in a sovereign Quebec? That our investing prospectuses will only be available in French? What are we, dumb? Quebecers are, on the contrary, very aware of the state of North America and the world, and it is one of the most bilingual people in the world. Quebecers speak English much better than French people do. We have a vast and rich territory, great industries, and formidable institutions. We have everything we need to be amongst the wealthiest nations of the world. What a shame it is, in my opinion, that a poor region like South-Sudan could make its sovereignty happen before we could!

Mr. McMillan, as many federalists, resorts to the commonly heard, yet misleading, argument of equalization payments. Sure, Quebec might receive, for the time being, more money than it gives. But let us consider the use of the money paid to the federal government. The truth is, Quebec loses a lot in paying for the federal

policies, because they go against its values, and thus enter in contradiction with our own provincial endeavors. Quebecers want to invest in prevention of criminality; Canada spends its money on mega-prisons. Quebecers want more respect for the environment; Canada destroyed Kyoto. Quebecers are in favor of peace and neutrality; Canada has become a military country, keen to declare war and take the lead in Afghanistan. And so on, and so forth. Quebecers are paying twice, for policies than end-up cancelling one another's benefits!

Quebec is also relatively less indebted than other developed countries: if it was to become a State, Quebec would be less indebted than the average of the OECD. How come those countries feel that it's ok for them to be in such debt and be independent, and Quebec shouldn't? Federalists too often try to scare the population with economic arguments, and, unfortunately, too often succeed. The size, the weight of a national economy is, in fact, irrelevant in our now globalised world. Sovereignty is far from being synonym with autarchy! In the XXIst century, all a country has to do to be prosperous is find a niche in which is it performing, and sell that to the rest of the world. In fact, ten of the wealthiest countries per capita in the world have a smaller or comparable economy than Quebec.

I could go on and on, but I doubt you are very numerous to have read to this point anyways. I'll simply conclude by stating that, in my opinion, all the issues Quebec is currently facing would be better and more easily resolved if it had all the powers to govern itself. Sovereignty is absolutely good for Quebec, it is good for all nations!

DEREK
ZEISMAN

DATUM ERRATUM

LSA TO LAW JOURNALS: GO ON,
TAKE THE MONEY AND RUN

Democracy can be such a messy thing.

If you weren't at the LSA's 2012 Annual General Assembly, held Oct. 17 in the Moot Court, you missed a very interesting discussion of the LSA's proposed allocation of \$20,000 in "surplus funds" (i.e. our money) to the four law journals that affiliate themselves with the Faculty of Law.

It was a discussion I suspect the LSA Executive was not expecting. (I was there, and I wasn't expecting it either.)

But law students, by their very nature, are an argumentative and contrarian bunch, and more than a few of them seemed dismayed (to put it lightly) that the LSA's 2012-13 budget had allocated \$20,000 to the journals. This money, by the way, is in addition to the substantial \$\$\$ already allocated to the journals through our student fees.

The dissent over this proposal reached a fever pitch, even as LSA President Graham Splawski attempted to douse the flames with various explanations of why the extra money for the law journals was a sound spending decision by the LSA.

For several minutes, it looked like the budget would be soundly defeated by the assembled students – a move Mr. Splawski said would result in the immediate shutdown of the LSA and all its activities. The audience seemed unimpressed.

Eventually, the President proposed a budgetary amendment that was reluctantly accepted by the membership. The proposed allocation was removed from the budget and placed in a kind of fiscal purgatory. It will be up for debate by students until next semester.

At that point, LSA Council (which, I note, unanimously supported the budget in its entirety before it was presented at the AGA) will again vote on the issue and decide where to allocate the homeless \$20,000. Will it simply be rubber-stamped back to the law journals? Potentially. But the delay gives students an opportunity to participate in the discussion, and lobby their elected representatives (LSA exec, class presidents, and Faculty Council reps) one way or the other.

Rabble-rouser that I am, I must say the discussion over this proposed \$20,000 allocation to our venerable law journals raised a host of serious questions in my mind.

The biggest argument made by the Executive in favour of this major spending proposal is that the LSA is flush with cash. Apparently too flush with cash.

The LSA's accumulated worth is now in the range of \$167,000. This is apparently too high – though not high enough to justify reducing our student fees, which are not only expensive for starving students, but are also roughly indexed to inflation, and thus are guaranteed to rise ever higher, year after year.

Don't get me wrong. I'd be more than happy to pay my student fees at their current rate, if the LSA had some grand vision, some great plan that justified a major capital expenditure. For example, Chris Durrant, who narrowly lost the race for LSA President to Mr. Splawski last March, had proposed the LSA work with the Faculty and University Administration to purchase and install solar panels on the roof of the Law Faculty, as a nod toward

environmental sustainability and energy efficiency.

But I am neither advocating nor opposing solar panels per se. All I am saying is that if the LSA is flush with cash, it could do several positive things to rectify this situation. It could lower our student fees. It could undertake a good-sized capital project that would benefit students as a whole (following suitable consultations, of course).

The LSA has chosen neither course. Instead, the proposed alternate course of "action" is to hand out large sums of student dollars to the law journals.

As the AGA, the LSA made various arguments to justify this gift. I was, and remain, skeptical.

The first argument is that the law journals benefit all students, not just those who participate in their editing and production. These benefits come in the form of the periodic conferences and talks the journals sponsor, as well as the added academic "prestige" their publication brings the Faculty and, by "trickle-down," law students themselves.

I myself cannot say how many conferences, talks and colloquia are sponsored by the various law journals. We are inundated with such things on a weekly basis here in the Faculty. This is a good thing, but I am not sure the few added drips the law journals add to my overfloweth cup justifies a major, multi-year cash gift to them.

The LSA also said the law journals have been experiencing "financial difficulty" in recent years. Of course, no numbers could be provided to the assembled students to

back up this claim, as the journals are independently incorporated entities that are neither accountable, nor report to, the LSA.

Instead, we were simply asked by the LSA to "trust" the law journals, and to "trust" the Executive's judgment in this regard. I'm sorry, but that just doesn't sound like a very "lawyerly" response to a valid question.

Because really, where student funds are concerned, trust has nothing to do with it. The facts should speak for themselves. And yet the facts cannot speak for themselves, because the law journals – as separate legal entities from the LSA – are under no obligation to open their books to us.

I respect this independence. Indeed, I vociferously defend it. But this does not mean the law journals should be entitled to additional student money, without having made any financial case in their favour. Indeed, for want of any hard empirical evidence of fiscal hardship, the law journals should be entitled to no extra money, period.

(As an aside on this topic, I might pose an additional question: if the journals are hard-up for funds, then why have we taken the collective decision to start a fourth new journal: the Arbitration Journal? This seems tantamount to taking on new obligations, before existing obligations have been properly attended to.)

Overall, I am not even certain this "financial need" argument is a valid one. My understanding is that the McGill Law Journal, by far the granddaddy of the group, was in the black last year. It also holds a substantial endowment from various benefactors, though this

cannot be dipped into without special permission.

At the AGA, the LSA seemed eager to hand over student funds to the law journals because "we know all the money will get spent." This point was made in contrast to clubs and societies, who only spent 56% of their budgetary allocation last year. (The unspent monies were simply added to the LSA surplus.)

I just cannot understand the logic behind this comparison. If there is a problem with insufficient spending (!) by clubs and societies, the LSA should work with them to remedy this issue. But this fact has nothing to do with whether we should be giving extra funding to the law journals. If they are not entitled to more LSA money, who really cares whether they would spend it all?

The LSA commitment to the law journals is also supposed to carry forward over three years, for a total of \$60,000. Personally, I do not like the idea of the LSA tying the hands of future councils like this. Let next year's budget be made by next year's council. If the law journals don't like it, they are welcome to refrain from the gift-giving process altogether.

I really do not see why the LSA feels such a terrible itch to draw down its accumulated net worth. It is always a good thing to retain money – lots of money – for rainy day needs and future projects of an urgent nature. Of course, if the LSA is dead set on flushing away its money, then why not undertake a major project with long-term value to students and Faculty alike? Or


perhaps they could consider giving me back a few of my own scarce dollars, in the form of a student fee rebate?

On the other hand, if the LSA is dead set on throwing money at the law journals, then fine. Let's consider them for funding.

But let them make the case for it, rather than our simply accepting them at their word. This means each journal should be required to submit an application for funding, complete with concrete financial projections, explicit funding plans, and maybe even performance benchmarks. And all funding allocations should be made on an annual basis only – no multi-year funding commitments, under any circumstances.

Additionally, I think the law journals should be required to provide the LSA with an outline of their additional funding sources, whether from advertising, sponsorships or whatever else. And if these "other" funding sources are minor or nil (for example, ads in a few of the law journals are very few and far between), then I tend to wonder why LSA money should be replacing fundraising activities that the journals should really be undertaking themselves.

I would encourage all students to provide your opinions, ideas and feedback regarding this law journals funding proposal to your elected LSA representatives. Remember: It's YOUR money they're spending, so have your say!



CHRIS
DURRANT

YOUR INTRO TO THE LSA COUNCIL'S \$20,000 ADVENTURE

In terms of LSA politics, last year was about referendums. We voted about labour disputes, tuition hikes, and the omnibus crime bill. And while we've already a controversial referendum, this year is going to be different. The LSA Council will be making the decisions. They'll be deciding how to spend twenty-thousand dollars, and maybe reinvigorating the representative democracy part of our governance that has generally been ignored in the past.

The LSA's great experiment in representative democracy started at this semester's General Assembly a few days ago. For anyone who missed it, this paragraph is my take on how GA's budget discussion unfolded. After a pleasantly meme-illustrated explanation of the executive's budgets and the budget as a whole, questions began. The questions came to focus on one point of contention. The budget was set to give an extra twenty thousand dollars to the four law journals. Audience members suggested that the money should be made available to all clubs, with the journals applying for the money like any club. Perhaps loath to be making budgetary changes on the fly, the LSA exec said that they wouldn't accept amendments from the floor. This naturally begged the question of what would happen if the budget was voted down, to which the LSA answered that they would have to immediately cease all financial disbursements, meaning a halt to all LSA activities. In possibly the only moment the LSA exec was able to successfully gauge what the room was thinking, they quickly added that this would mean no Coffee House. The discussion got predictably heated, and after some constitutional and procedural wrangling, a compromise was struck. The budget was

passed (grab your mug Sally, Coffee House continues) except that the twenty thousand dollars earmarked for the journals has been left out of the budget. The LSA Council will decide what to do with the money in early January, possibly at their first meeting.

Now this is an interesting issue and should stimulate some good discussion about the role of the journals at our school, our hopes for our clubs, and what the LSA spends money on. One detail I found interesting at the GA is that the journals had not shown their budgets to the LSA. The executive said they would give the journals money by reimbursing receipts, just like they do with clubs. This makes little difference however, if the journals don't have to show how the money that they receive from the levies we all pay is used. They could send some of their legitimate expenses to the LSA, and spend some of their levy money on a champagne bubble bath. Do I think that's what would likely happen? No. I assume our journals are well-managed, because the only kind of person who is more anal retentive and detail-based than someone who follows student politics is someone who would want to check citations in their spare time. Get enough of those people in a room and they'll probably watch each other pretty well. At the same time however, we can't base our decisions on glib stereotypes. The journals get our money, but they don't appear to be very accountable. It might be worth having a discussion about that.

Another point I hope doesn't get lost in this discussion is that we don't have to hand the money over to either the journals or the clubs. Unless they say otherwise, the journals are getting by on their

levies, and compared to last year, the clubs are already getting more money as it is. Council could vote to spend it on something else or even decide not to spend it right away. The money represents the LSA's structural surplus; the 20 thousand the LSA usually has left over at the end of each year, these last couple of years. Now, the LSA could provide an additional service, take on a new initiative, give a regular donation to charity or provide a scholarship. There are lots of things we could do, if not starting this year, then next. January will come fast, but I hope there is a good discussion on how this money should be spent this year and in the years to come. (I personally will be suggesting that as wonderful as Actus Reus always is, it would really benefit from a pyrotechnics budget).

Finally, just as interesting as the decision to be made is who will make the decision. The LSA Council makes decisions all the time, but what's different in this case is that the whole student body has the time and opportunity to consider the issue and give their input. Now this is pretty neat actually, democratically. People who were elected, not based on a political party, but based on who they are, will have to make a decision, with hopefully a large portion of the law school watching. Will they vote based on what they personally think is right or will they vote based on what they think the majority of students want? Have we elected Edmund Burkes or people who see themselves as delegates? We'll find out when they vote. But before that, their responsibility is clear. They must listen, even Burke was quite adamant about that. The flip-side of the coin however, is that we the students must be vocal.

A MOTION FOR A SUBSTANTIAL STUDENT ROLE IN DECISIONS ABOUT COURSE OFFERINGS AND COURSE CONTENT

This motion was adopted at the law students association annual general meeting, held on october 17, 2012

WHEREAS the curriculum forms a fundamental part of a student's legal education;

WHEREAS students are the people most affected by decisions about course offerings and course content;

WHEREAS students are in a good position to know what types of courses will be necessary or useful for their future careers and personal development;

WHEREAS the Faculty is currently undergoing a review of the curriculum;

WHEREAS many students are disappointed with the Faculty course offerings, including topic and language of instruction;

WHEREAS many students are sometimes disappointed with the content of their courses, especially required courses;

WHEREAS other Quebec universities allow for student input into the content of each course;

WHEREAS some law faculties in Canada have mandatory courses in Access to Justice (Windsor), Social Rights (UQAM) and Aboriginal Law (UBC) that are either not even offered at McGill or not on a regular basis;

WHEREAS students were inadequately consulted during the curriculum changes that took place last year;

WHEREAS measures to address gaps in the course offerings, such as student-led seminars, are welcome but their constraints are too limiting;

WHEREAS students have no representation in decisions about annual course offerings and each course's content;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Council Curriculum Committee student representatives canvas student ideas through town halls and/or written submissions to determine the best ways students can play a substantial role in decisions about course offerings and course material; BE IT RESOLVED that following this consultation, the Faculty Council Curriculum Committee student representatives organize a special General Assembly by the end of January 2013 to vote on the preferred method(s) of student input into course offerings and course content;

BE IT RESOLVED that the LSA advocate that students play a substantial role in decisions about course offerings and course content based on the results of this special GA;

BE IT RESOLVED that the LSA advocate that students be allowed to take more than one student-led seminar for credit;

BE IT RESOLVED that the LSA advocate that the Faculty commit to offering any student-led seminar as a regular course after it has been held three times.

MOTION ON GRADES

This motion was adopted at the law students association annual general meeting, held on october 17, 2012

WHEREAS the faculty should foster an atmosphere of community and collaboration rather than one of competition;

WHEREAS a number of courses in the faculty already operate on a pass/fail basis;

WHEREAS other distinguished law schools such as Yale and the U of T have moved to a non-grade evaluation; and

WHEREAS studies appear to show that pass/fail programs correspond with less stress and greater group cohesion;

RESOLVED that the LSA convene a committee on alternative approaches to grading;

RESOLVED that this committee be given a mandate to research, to canvas student opinion, and to issue a report by February 2013;

RESOLVED that the committee pay special attention to potential effects on marginalized groups historically excluded from the legal profession;

RESOLVED that the report be issued with a view to proposing an LSA referendum question on the matter in March, if the committee identifies what appears to be a better approach; and

RESOLVED that such a referendum question would strongly advocate on behalf of students that the faculty adopt the preferred approach.

**MICHÈLE
LAMARRE-
LEROUX**

NO TIME TO COOK?

FROM THE STUDENT WELL-BEING COMMITTEE

Je vais être honnête en disant que je n'avais pas d'inspiration pour mon article de cette semaine. Alors je me contente de vous partager un paquet de recettes faciles, rapides et pas chères, vous permettant d'avoir un menu équilibré toute la semaine!

De plus, j'ai découvert que Joannie Jacob, une étudiante sur le Student Well-Being Committee en 2009-2010, avait fait un livre de recettes complet avec des recettes d'étudiants. Si vous en voulez une copie, écrivez-moi un email!
michele.lamarre-leroux@mail.mcgill.ca
Enjoy!

Salade tiède de pois chiches

Préparation : 15 min.

Cuisson : 10 min.

Portions : 4

Ingrédients

- 1 petit oignon rouge émincé finement
- 1 gousse d'ail hachée finement
- 2 c. à soupe d'huile d'olive
- ¼ t. de vinaigre de vin rouge
- 1 boîte de 540 mL de pois chiches rincés et égouttés
- 2 tomates coupées en fins quartiers
- 1 tasse de bébés épinards
- 1 c. à soupe de menthe fraîche ciselée
- Sel et poivre

Préparation

- Dans une poêle, attendrir l'oignon et l'ail dans l'huile.
- Déglacer avec le vinaigre et laisser réduire à sec.
- Ajouter les pois chiches et bien mélanger.
- Saler et poivrer
- Dans un bol, mélanger la préparation de pois chiches avec le reste des ingrédients.
- Rectifier l'assaisonnement.

Commentaires

J'ajoute toujours plus de bébés épinards! Ajuster les quantités au goût.

Pangasius au lait de coco 5 minutes

Préparation : 5 min.

Cuisson : 10 min.

Portions : 4

Ingrédients

- 800 grammes (11/2 lb) de filets de pangasius, coupés en cubes
- 398 mL (14 oz) de lait de coco
- 30 mL (2 c. à soupe) de gingembre frais haché finement
- 1 mL (¼ c. à thé) de coriandre moulue
- Le zeste et le jus d'une lime
- Sel et poivre

Préparation

- Dans une casserole, mélanger tous les ingrédients à l'exception du jus de lime.
- Saler et poivrer
- Porter à ébullition
- Couvrir et laisser mijoter doucement environ 5 minutes
- Ajouter le jus de lime au goût

Commentaires

Idéal à manger sur un lit de riz!

Galettes de saumon faciles

Préparation : 5 min.

Cuisson : 5 min.

Portions : 4

Ingrédients

- 10 biscuits soda
- 1 conserve de saumon (106 gr)
- 1 œuf
- ½ t. d'épinards ou cresson, hachés
- Sel et poivre

Préparation

- Écraser les biscuits soda.
- Y ajouter le saumon, l'œuf, les épinards et les assaisonnements.
- Bien mélanger.
- Façonner des galettes.
- Cuire dans un poêlon légèrement graissé pendant 5 min.

Commentaires

Cela aide d'écraser les galettes avec une spatule.

Idéal pour un repas rapide, en transit, entre deux cours!

Salade polyvalente

Tous les ingrédients sont au choix!

Préparation : 10 min.

Cuisson : 0 min.

Portions : 4

Ingrédients

Base (au choix)

- 2 boîtes de légumineuses mélangées en conserve
- 2 tasses de couscous

Mélange (au choix)

- Poivrons de la couleur préférée! (Les verts sont moins chers, les rouges plus sucrés!)
- Céleri
- Olives noires
- Bébés épinards
- Tomates
- Concombres
- Feta
- Menthe/Basilic
- N'importe quel autre légume du marché de saison!

Extras pour faire changement :

- Graines de tournesol
- Amandes
- Thon en canne

Vinaigrettes (quantités au goût):

- 2 parts d'huile d'olive pour 1 part de vinaigre balsamique
- Moutarde dijon
- Miel

Ou

- 2 parts d'huile d'olive pour 1 part de vinaigre de framboise
- Origan

Ou

- 2 parts d'huile d'olive pour 1 part de vinaigre de vin blanc
- moutarde de dijon
- jus de citron frais
- origan séché
- 1 gousse d'ail, hachée
- sucre
- sel et poivre

Préparation

- Tout mélanger

Commentaires

Adaptable à tous les goûts!

Law III

**MOLLY
KRISHTALKA**

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Vous sentez qu'il n'y a pas assez d'heures dans la journée pour compléter toutes vos lectures et manger sainement? Ne vous inquiétez plus, je vous jure que cette recette végétarienne ne prend pas plus de 30 minutes! Spice-lovers may prefer to prepare their own seasoning mix (see below), but for those in a real rush, store-bought barbeque seasoning will do just as well. Feel free to add other vegetables—corn, diced eggplant, or even mushrooms would be equally delicious in this dish. Depending on hunger levels, this recipe makes 2-4 servings.

Black Bean Fajitas

- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 1 bell pepper, diced
- 1 can black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 tablespoon barbeque seasoning (store-bought, or homemade recipe follows)
- ½ teaspoon ground cumin
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- ¾ cup water
- 1 green onion, diced
- Salt and pepper, to taste

Soft tortillas, warmed

Toppings: grated cheese, diced avocado, diced tomato, sour cream—the options are endless!

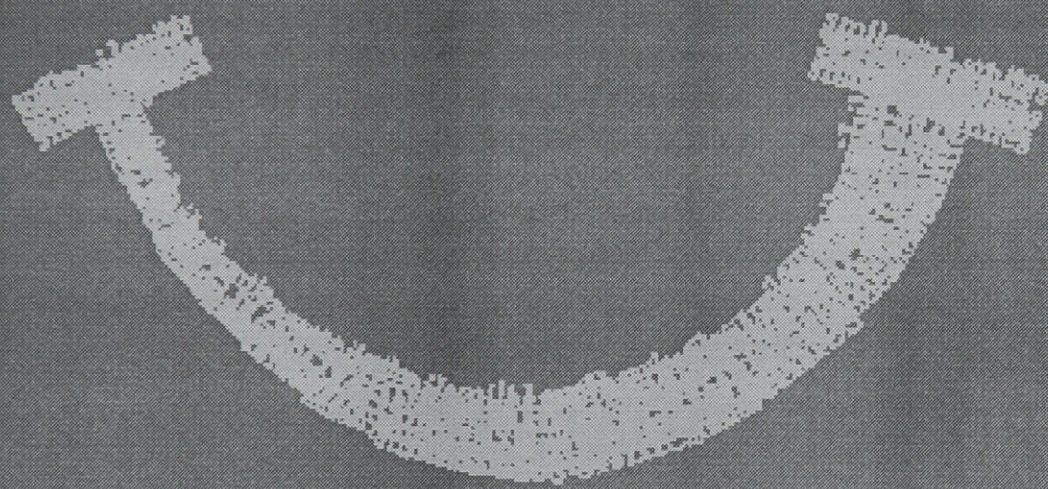
Heat the oil in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add the onion, and cook until soft, roughly 3 minutes. Add the bell pepper, and cook for an additional 4 minutes, until softened. Stir in the black beans, BBQ seasoning, and cumin, and cook until fragrant, roughly 30 seconds. Add the tomato paste and water. Stir the mixture occasionally until the water has cooked off, roughly 5 minutes. Add the green onion, salt, and pepper, and spoon the fajita mix into the tortillas. Top with cheese, avocado, and/or diced tomatoes. Enjoy!

Homemade seasoning (makes 1 tablespoon)

- 1/8 teaspoon ground cayenne
- 1/8 teaspoon ground mustard
- ¼ teaspoon garlic powder
- ¼ teaspoon onion powder
- ¼ teaspoon red pepper flakes
- ½ teaspoon cumin
- ½ teaspoon sweet paprika
- 1 teaspoon brown sugar

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CDO ADVISORY BOARD

GREETINGS!

1. Who are we? The CDO Advisory Board is an LSA committee that was put together last year to work in conjunction with the Career Development Office to discuss and meet the needs of the student body concerning career-related issues. This committee consists of the Assistant Dean (Student Life and Learning), the CDO Director, the CDO Coordinator, one LSA executive, and two student representatives.

2. What do we do? Well, our first meeting of the year was very productive. We discussed a number of relevant issues including:

a) Activités du CDP – Cet été, le CDP a été très occupé par la mise en place des processus de recrutement organisé auprès de différents cabinets et organisations. Il a également planifié les activités qui ont eu lieu durant l'orientation, de même que les événements sociaux et les ateliers pour les étudiants qui se tiendront au courant de l'année scolaire. Le CDP a aussi travaillé avec le SAO à développer d'autres activités comme un programme de mentorat entre les Anciens diplômés et les étudiants (génial!).

b) Student Concerns: We discussed some of the issues you raised to us such as: the need for more public interest events, the CDO

doing more to provide information on Eastern Canada recruitments, getting some statistics on the OCI and Course aux Stages recruitment rates, and increasing the meeting times available with the CDO office. To address some of these issues, the CDO is looking to hire more help very soon (subject to available resources), and they are offering more group clinics and workshops (so take advantage of these). Regarding Eastern Canada recruitment – and organized recruitment processes in general – the CDO currently partners with a number of CDO offices across the country, and uploads the information on its website (<http://www.mcgill.ca/cdo/>) as soon as it becomes available from them. A reminder to all students was also sent in the Mme Jobs newsletter.

3. Comment pouvez-vous vous impliquer? C'est très facile de vous exprimer par le biais des membres étudiantes du comité consultatif! Tout commentaire, question, inquiétude et compliment sont les bienvenus! N'hésitez pas à communiquer avec nous! Also, don't forget to visit the brand new "Get involved" section of the recently revamped CDO website to find out more! It's YOUR Career Office!

OXFORD'S GRADUATE RECRUITMENT TEAM IN CANADA

OXFORD'S GRADUATE RECRUITMENT

This November, the University of Oxford will be in Canada visiting various universities across the country to promote graduate study at the University.

We have been able to arrange presentations at the University of Waterloo, Wilfrid Laurier, York, Queen's, McGill, Concordia's LAC and the University of Ottawa.

If you know anyone who may be interested in attending one of these events, please ask them to register online on the University's Canada website: http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/postgraduate_courses/about_the_university/countryspecific_information/canada_2012.html.

If you know anyone from Canada who may be interested in ap-

plying for graduate study at Oxford, please ask them to visit our Course Guide:

http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/postgraduate_courses/course_guide/index.html for details on our courses, the application process, and more.

Prospective graduate students can get in touch with our Graduate Admission team via www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/ask, and also sign up for useful updates through www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/updates

If you have any questions or comments regarding our upcoming initiative, please do get in touch with Luke Seamone, Graduate Recruitment Manager (luke.seamone@admin.ox.ac.uk).

**JAMES
MCCARTHY
& LINDA
EL-HALABI**

APLAM NEWS


A Word from 1L Representatives

James:


On September 26th, the Asia Pacific Law Association of McGill (APLAM) kicked off the year with its Welcome Event, the first of what promises to be a year of interesting and fun events for APLAM. Over a snack of egg rolls, samosas, and various other finger foods, students had the chance to mingle and discuss various topics related to the Asia Pacific region. The 2012-2013 APLAM executives were on hand to welcome newcomers, chatting with them about the organization itself and the various opportunities to get involved and learn more about the region. After students had the opportunity to talk and enjoy the food, the APLAM team formally introduced themselves, as well as their plans for various events throughout the year aimed at providing opportunities for McGill Law students to learn more about the Asia Pacific region. As a first year student coming from outside of McGill, this event was my first exposure to APLAM. Having experienced the region first hand as an exchange student in Hong Kong during my undergrad, I was extremely interested in the various opportunities which APLAM provides to McGill Law students to increase our knowledge of the Asia Pacific region, and I very much look forward to the events which are planned for the coming academic year.

Linda:

A few weeks ago, I attended APLAM's welcome event to new students. Because of my interest in the Asia Pacific region and my love of East Asian cultures and languages, I had been involved in Asia-oriented student clubs during my undergrad at McGill. Therefore, when I had heard about APLAM while still an undergrad, I immediately thought I would want to join the group as a law student. I attended their welcome event to learn more about the club, and by talking to the execs and previous and current members, I knew APLAM was the right student group for me to get involved in. I liked that they were focused both on professional development events and cultural events, and I thought it was a great idea that they wanted to work on integrating more Asia-related courses in our law curriculum. Basically, after getting to know the execs and the members at the welcome event, I was impressed by their ideas, their achievements (for which they have won club of the year), and their welcoming and friendly attitude. I'm definitely glad to be on the team this year and can't wait to see what we will accomplish.



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STOP Plates are available at Ferner 6m105 Mon-Fri, Thurs. between 11:00 - 12:00.

www.mcgill.ca/security

**JONATHAN
BROSSEAU**

Law II

INSOMNIE

et les lumières ensanglantées
mon regard à la guerre dans
mon cœur au lent rythme des vagues de
mes souvenirs hier nouveaux poèmes
apprendre à parler retranscrire quelques
chansons tes rêves cessent de se dire
parfois même l'été fait du sens pour
les convaincus la crème glacée si
rapidement évaporée goudron
tes vêtements flottant sur l'eau l'étang

**LUDOVIC
BOURDAGES**

Law II

CE N'EST QU'UN JEU

II


J'ai le cœur étourdi
dans tes bras
il a tourné
les yeux bandés
sur lui-même

je te l'ai offert

avec le sourire d'un enfant
qui met la queue de l'âne
en pleine face

avec le délire d'un ivrogne
qui joue au funambule
en pleine rue

et tu as ri.



HÉLIA
TAHERI

INGÉRÉE PAR LA FORÊT

Ingérée par la forêt, elle court, elle court sans tourner la tête; ignorant les branches qui la fouettent, elle court. Ingérée par sa peur, elle court, elle court sans tourner le regard, ignorant les cailloux qui mordent ses pieds nus, elle court. Ingérée par l'espoir, elle court, elle court sans se retourner. Peu à peu, elle s'estompe dans la noirceur.

Mercredi

Ses doigts tremblants défont l'enveloppe tout doucement. Le nom du destinataire n'est pas indiqué, seulement une adresse inconnue; cela la terrifie. Tracassée, elle retire la lettre d'un coup sec.

« Je t'aime, je t'aimais, je t'aimerai. Il faut que tu le saches. Je ne t'ai jamais raconté de mensonges et je ne commencerai pas maintenant, aujourd'hui, après tant d'années. Quand je te disais que tu étais belle, je le pensais réellement. Je ne veux pas dire que je ne regrette pas le passé anéanti. Je me suis laissé traîner par la charrette de mes appétences les plus immorales. C'est dur de résister, surtout lorsque le fruit paraît si délicieux. Je regrette, je regrette de l'avoir souillé, le fruit de ton âme.

Quand mes doigts parcouraient le chemin si soigneusement assoupli de ta peau, je sentais le plaisir cru monter en moi. Quand les larmes barbouillaient ton regard, c'était le remords qui commençait à ronger mon être, mais il était trop tard. Il était toujours trop tard, mes mains ne m'obéissaient plus, mes mains bestiales. Elles ne m'appartenaient plus, elles étaient un tout, une entité sauvage, un être guidé par le désir et affronté par la culpabilité. Elles étaient puissantes et toi, tu étais si facile à manipuler, plus souple qu'une ficelle de pêche. Il fallait affronter la tempête à chaque soir. Moi, assis dans la chaloupe de mon désir, je gardais ta tête sous l'eau, je t'étranglais dans une mer de péché. La tempête te faisait mal, elle me faisait plaisir. Quand c'était fini, tu courrais te cacher. Et moi, je te regardais partir, immobile, je songeais à me charcuter les mains, à brûler mon sexe, afin de ne plus te faire du mal. Mais, le lendemain soir, même tempête, même histoire. J'étais trop lâche, trop lâche pour me couper, me brûler, me détruire, et j'ai fini par me démolir. »

Sourire forcé, pour se convaincre que tout va bien, que son monde ne vient pas de s'écrouler dans l'espace de quelques minutes. Regard cloué sur le mur, le sourire s'efface aussitôt. Échappant la lettre, elle s'écroule sur la chaise. Les convulsions partent,

le calme revient; les halètements laissent place à des souffles en cadence; le regard accroché au mur s'est traîné jusqu'au plafond maintenant où il trace des arabesques. Réfléchis.

Jeudi

Assez! Elle en a assez d'être embrouillée comme si elle était sous l'effet de sédatifs. Elle a eu cette impression pendant si longtemps dans sa vie, elle ne recommencera pas. Évasion, écrire, répondre. Une feuille nue qui attend d'être vêtue. Elle commence à l'habiller par des mots.

Je te hais, je t'ai haï, je te haïrai. Il faut que tu le saches. Toi et tes remords, je n'en ai rien à faire. Qu'est ce que tu espérais en écrivant cette lettre? Que je me sens mal pour toi parce que tu n'es qu'un gâchis total? Essayes-tu vraiment de me faire croire que tu ne m'as jamais menti? Tu ne cesseras donc jamais. Je veux tant que tu te suffoques avec tes mensonges. Non, tu ne regrettes rien. Les souvenirs du passé, ces cauchemars qui hantent non seulement mes nuits, mais aussi mes jours; ils te redonnent le plaisir recherché. Tu passes tes journées à rêver dans ton fauteuil, oui, le même fauteuil, ce lieu de péché, là où ton couteau a percé ma carcasse je ne sais plus combien de fois. Non, quand tu me disais que j'étais belle, tu ne le pensais pas réellement. Tu aurais craché la même tirade à n'importe quelle fille de douze ans à ta disposition. Il y en avait quelques unes dans le village. Le destin avait fait en sorte que ce soit moi, ta poupée. Il m'avait pris maman, elle était morte. Il m'avait pris papa et Patrick, ils travaillaient tout le temps, trop occupés à regarder ailleurs, trop concentrés à ne pas voir. Il m'a laissée seule, seule entre tes sales griffes. Et dire que vous étiez connus comme mes gardiens jaloux. Jaloux, oui, gardien, non. Tu as démolé mon passé, mais tu ne m'as pas démolie, tu n'es ni assez important, ni assez puissant, pour me démolir. Je me suis enfuie, comme l'avait fait cousin Stevens. Mais lui, il était revenu rendre visite. Je ne reviendrai jamais rendre visite. Je suis à l'abri, la tempête ne me touchera plus. Lettre par lettre, elle recopie l'adresse du destinataire, un moment d'hésitation, elle inscrit ensuite le nom. Son crayon a du mal à l'obéir, à moins que ce ne soit sa main qui hésite, les lettres roulent sur la surface de l'enveloppe.

Vendredi

Confusion, congé de maladie de travail, regard au plafond, vide d'esprit.

Samedi

Dans le lit jusqu'en après-midi, long bain.

Dimanche

...

Lundi

Il faut se décider. Dans quelques heures le train arrivera. Et que feras-tu? Courir encore? Vers où? Destination ou affrontement?

Il faut se décider. Le revolver, ne l'oublie pas, peu importe ton choix. Le premier salaire en échange d'un revolver; ventre affamé, corps fatigué, priorité au revolver. Il faut savoir se

défendre. Ne plus subir le mal, ne plus jamais laisser personne t faire du mal. Aujourd'hui, prends le revolver. 11h00. Le train arrive bientôt. Partir? La gare? L'embarcadère? Curiosité, qu'est-il devenu, ça te ronge les os, tu veux savoir, tu as toujours voulu le savoir. Courage, pourrais-tu le revoir, le regarder dans les yeux après quinze ans passés? Courbé, dos courbé, tu ressens le poids du fardeau que tu croyais avoir réussi à t'en débarrasser. Le pouvoir du déni t'avait aidé à oublier, à ignorer et maintenant, que vas-tu faire? Ferme tes yeux et cours...ou ouvre grand et avance. Peu importe ton choix, le revolver dans la main.

Elle jette le revolver dans le sac, ferme la porte, avance de pas précipités, direction, la gare.

OVERHEARD AT THE FAC

Prof: You look at this book and you think, 'Wow, Egypt built the pyramids, and Canada has the Income Tax Act'.

L4: Would you rather live in Canada or Egypt?

Prof: I'm not sure.

Prof: Have I upset you? If you want we can have a drink about this on Thursday.

Prof, in tax class: Beware of simple rules.

Prof: So, what article is that?
[silence]

1L, after a little while: 3088.

Prof: 3090

1L: I think I just made that up.

Prof: Well, I'm not saying I didn't appreciate it! After what felt like 2 hours of silence, it was the best answer we had. So Bravo!

Prof: I will only accept answers in classical sanskrit.

Prof: Ça va? J'entends chouchoter... est-ce qu'il y a des questions? Ça va? ok.

Prof: Diva life is very expensive... Just think of how much I spend on M&M's!

Prof: No doubt your knowledge of the first 100 articles of the Criminal Code is impressive and I'm sure pretty daunting to your fellow students.

Prof: Well, the Supreme Court isn't bound by the dictionary.

Prof: Constitutional law was taught differently in my day. I think that we spent 4 and a half weeks on the Charter. The rest was all marketing boards... egg marketing boards, pork marketing boards, margarine... Don't test me on my knowledge of egg marketing boards. You'd be surprised.

Prof: Do you agree that ... well, it's purely rhetorical, so of course you agree...

Prof: So, maybe contextualism is useful here ... sorry to use the Supreme Court's favorite weasel word.

Prof, calling a student: Margarita? You're a drink, not a lady.

Prof: That was a trick question. But answer it.

Prof: Are interest payments deductible from income?

L4: Possibly so.

Prof: That is a wonderfully caveated answer.

L4: Question.

Prof: If you're really interested, I just wrote a forty-page paper on that subject.

2L: McGill Law is a very particular faculty.
Prof: Yes, we are pretty weird.

SUBMIT OVERHEARDS!
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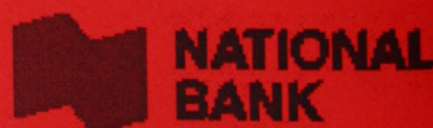
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